MORE TROUBLE DOWN UNDER

AMBER HEARD VS. AUSTRALIA CONTINUES. PAGE 16

metro

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Monday, July 20, 2015 www.metro.us | t: MetroPhilly | f: MetroPhilly

Stay hydrated

Summer. The season of fun is also marked by hellish heat. An extreme heat warning is in effect all Monday and temperatures will stay above 85 through the week, forecasters said. PAGE 02

Locals flocked to the fountain at Logan Square to cool off and play on Sunday. / CHARLES MOSTOLLER

Papal Pass on sale today — see Ask SEPTA

PAGE 06

Tattoos get kitschy with new cross stitch trend

PAGE 18

Phillies at a crossroads in season's second half

PAGES 26 & 28

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1 NEWS

Top 3

The best of Metro.us

1 '"BoJack Horseman"'s second season less loopy, more sad #BoJackThoughts'

2 'Bare bodies become art at NYC Bodypainting Day'

3 '"Hunger Games" star calls out Kylie Jenner over cornrows selfie'

On the go

Want to read Metro on your mobile device? Get the app! All you have to do is search for Metro US in the App Store or Google Play to get all the latest in news, sports, lifestyle and entertainment for free.

'Person of interest' in Drexel grad's murder

Homicide. Police interviewed an individual over the weekend in the murder of a woman in her West Philly home.

Police were reportedly investigating a "person of interest" in the murder of a young Drexel graduate found dead in her West Philly apartment last week.

Jasmine Wright, 27, was found dead inside an apartment at 50th and Locust streets on Thursday.

Reports said she was strangled to death. There were no signs of forced entry.

Her family contacted police after not hearing from her for days.

The Inquirer reported that police had located a "person of interest" who they were interviewing in the case — reportedly a 56-year-old man.

Wright, a New York City native, had a master's of public health from Drexel University's School of Public Health and graduated from Penn State University in 2011.

Friends mourned Wright on social media.

"If you had the chance to meet and hang around Jas, you knew how much of a kind spirit she was," wrote William Dennis on Twitter. He added: "Who in their right mind decides 'I don't want her to live anymore.' She didn't deserve that."

Police did not respond to requests for comment on Sunday afternoon about the status of the investigation.

SAM NEWHOUSE
@scnewhouse
sam.newhouse@metro.us

Jasmine Wright / PROVIDED

Weekend heat wave roasts Philadelphia

Residents flocked to the fountain Sunday at Logan Square to cool off and play. Some residents still ventured out for a conga drum jam along the Schuylkill River. / CHARLES MOSTOLLER

Extreme temperatures in Philly put a slight damper on the summer fun this weekend.

As temperatures reached the high 90s on Sunday and humidity blanketed the city, barbecues were canceled. So were block parties. Some locals fled for the shore. Those in the city stayed close to the air-conditioning unit or tried to dunk themselves in the nearest fountain.

An excessive heat warning is in effect for the Philadelphia area until 8 p.m. Monday with a predicted temperature of 95 degrees that, combined with high humidity, will feel like 100 degrees or higher, according to the National Weather Service.

Temperatures are expected to drop to 93 Tuesday, with partly cloudy weather, and then down on Wednesday and Thursday to 87.

Locals are being urged to monitor elderly neighbors and relatives.

The Philadelphia Corporation for Aging has activated its Heatline (215-765-9040), which provides info to seniors on beating the heat, including air conditioned locations.

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Future Built on Safety and Accessibility

Department of Licenses and Inspections invests in technology and enforcement to increase compliance and ensure safety

The Department of Licenses and Inspections (L+I) has recently made essential all-around enhancements that will improve the transparency, accessibility and safety to building projects citywide. All of these improvements support the Department's unwavering mission of being a partner in building safety.

Progressive Strategies to Improve On-Site Safety

L+I is making major changes to construction and demolition practices by implementing stronger regulatory systems. Effective August 1, 2015 all contractors performing demolitions in the City of Philadelphia are required to take an exam covering Job Assessment (International Building Code), Site Preparation (Philadelphia Building Code Amendments), Demolition (OHSA), and Safety (OSHA). These requirements will effectively separate contractor demolition licenses into two categories, Class A for Major Buildings (either more than three stories or 40 feet in height, or covering over 10,000 square of lot space), and Class B for all non-Major Buildings. This change will ensure that contractors on major demolition sites have the proper experience and credentials, while also providing fair business practices and opportunities to all qualified contractors. Safety in demolition is of paramount importance. Last year, Philadelphia City Council passed five legislative bills to improve public safety in the construction industry. The Department immediately began implementing many of the bills including a new demolition application and inspection procedure that now requires an extensive plan examination.

This includes a review of site safety plans, work schedules and contractor experience before a permit is issued. These additional demolition inspections ensure that the safety precautions are in place for adjacent properties and along pedestrian walkways near the demolition sites.

In addition to these stricter requirements and improved training, it is critical for the public to be able to report dangerous conditions that may arise from demolition and construction activities.

In July of 2014, the Department introduced new signage regulations that require all major permitted construction projects post

Safety barricades protect citizens during demolitions

a sign that visibly displays vital information regarding the project including the name and address information of the property owner and contractor. Most importantly, contact information is displayed to report an emergency or dangerous condition for immediate response.

Moreover, because demolition oftentimes takes place next to or in the vicinity of other properties, the Department created educational materials for dissemination to the public. The materials notify adjacent property owners or residents of the impending demolition; that L+I has already approved the demolition safety plan; and what to expect before, during, and after the demolition.

> **"The City goes further than almost all major cities in its enforcement of demolition regulations and in its demolition inspections, with the hope and expectation that these extra steps can help keep all of Philadelphia, both citizens and visitors, safe."**
>
> *- L+I Commissioner Carlton Williams*

The City of Philadelphia and L+I have also implemented a number of legislative bills, Departmental restructuring and personnel investments in order to better prevent future tragedies and ensure quality customer experiences, including:

- Demolition application and permit controls for improved contractor accountability
- Increased partnerships with OSHA, police and fire departments to ensure better safety procedures for first responders
- Decreased the number of imminently dangerous properties by 50%
- To date, over 300 Stop Work Orders have been issued in 2015, halting work at demolition sites and preventing dangerous construction from continuing
- Cleaned and sealed over 2,100 vacant properties throughout the City
- New construction site signage requirements to better inform and engage the public to report dangerous conditions that threaten public safety

"Two years ago, the City had over 600 imminently dangerous properties. Today, we have cut that number in half to fewer than 300 structures by aggressively demolishing buildings that have threatened our communities for years" added Commissioner Williams. "To prevent crime, health issues and possible dangerous enticements to children, the Department has decreased the number of vacant and open properties by cleaning and sealing over 2,000 vacant and open properties since last year. This represents a 35% increase from the previous average of 1,400 properties annually. We must continue to strategically and aggressively address this citywide epidemic. Strategic enforcement is our first line of defense."

L+I is conducting inspections of vacant properties as a proactive response to dangerous conditions that have, for years, plagued the City of Philadelphia and endangered the lives of its citizens and workers. The inspections systematically evaluate vacant structures for code compliance and identify specific challenges or concerns.

The recent enhancements at L+I reveal a Department evolving to better serve its customers in an open, accessible way that maximizes safety and improves efficiency. This process will remain ongoing and flexible based on emerging technologies, changing market conditions, progress in building safety processes, and most importantly, customer feedback. To help L+I better serve you, and shape a safer City, take an online survey at www.phila.gov/LI.

Citizens are encouraged to call 311 if they see a job site they believe is unsafe.

www.metro.us

Shooting

Center City porn store employee fights back against armed assailant, gets shot

Danny's Leather, Adult and Video Shop in Center City was the scene of a shooting early Saturday that left an employee shot in the back.

Police released the video in a bid to identify the suspect. No motive for the shooting was reported by police.

The shooting occurred at the 24-hour adult store on 13th Street between Sansom and Walnut.

The shooter entered the store at 3:38 a.m., walked through and left, police said, but immediately returned, pulling out a silver revolver.

In the video, the shooter can be seen drawing his weapon after approaching an employee of the store, who tried to grab the shooter's wrist and push him away.

The shooter got off one shot as he left, hitting the employee in the back.

The suspect is described as a black male, between 5-feet-7 and 5-feet-9, thin build, wearing glasses and a dark hooded sweatshirt with USA on the front.

Anyone with any information about the shooting is being asked to call 911 immediately, or 215.686.TIPS (8477) or text a tip to PPD TIP (773847). SAM NEWHOUSE

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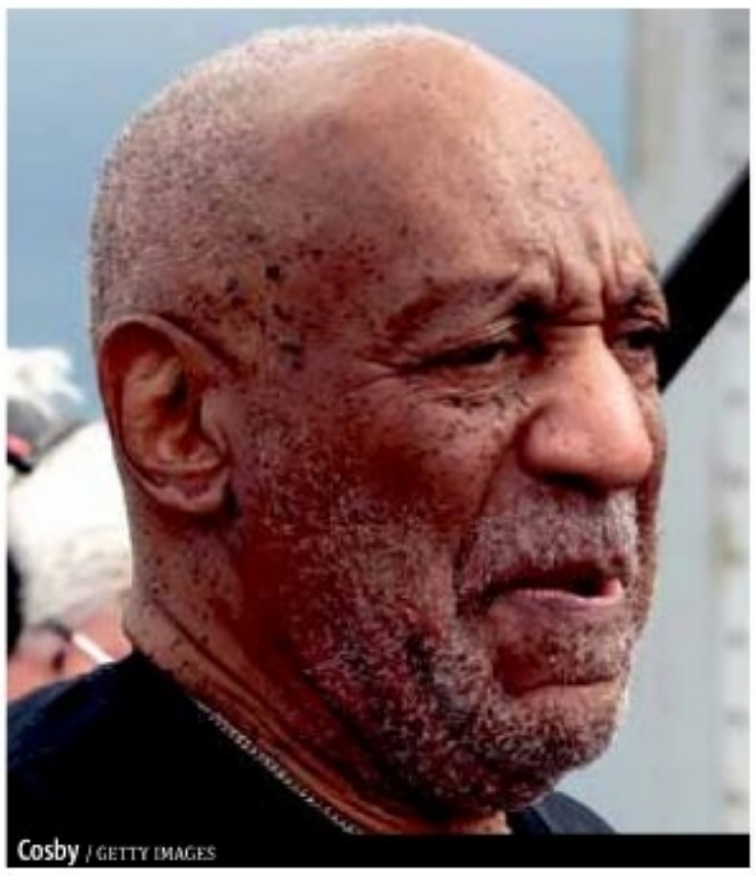
Cosby / GETTY IMAGES

Cosby denied rape, says he was adept at picking up on sexual cues

In writing. A new deposition obtained by The New York Times features new revelations from Cosby discussing his sexual relations with young women.

Comedian Bill Cosby, who faces accusations that he drugged and sexually assaulted women in incidents dating back years, described himself in a deposition from a decade ago as adept at picking up on cues about sex, The New York Times reported.

The newspaper obtained the record of Cosby's testimony over four days in 2005 and 2006, with the former star of television's "The Cosby Show" providing descriptions of methods he used to pursue women and how he obtained Quaaludes.

A judge this month released a document with excerpts from the deposition that included Cosby's admission that he obtained Quaaludes, a sedative and muscle relaxant, with the intent of giving it to young women to have sex with them.

The New York Times reported it has since obtained the deposition transcript with further details.

The accusations against the 78-year-old Cosby have left the career of the once-beloved comedian in tatters. Cosby has never been criminally charged and most of the allegations exceed the statute of limitations.

In the deposition, Cosby described why he viewed what he said was a sexual encounter with the plaintiff in the case as consensual, according to the newspaper. The woman accused him of drugging and molesting her.

"I walk her out. She does not look angry. She does not say to me, don't ever do that again," Cosby said in the deposition, according to the newspaper.

"She doesn't walk out with an attitude of a huff, because I think that I'm a pretty decent reader of people and their emotions in these romantic sexual things, whatever you want to call them," he said.

The case was settled for an undisclosed sum in 2006. REUTERS

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Send your questions about SEPTA services and other issues about the transit agency via Twitter @MetroPhilly, or by email to Sam.Newhouse@metro.us. They will be forwarded to Joe Casey, who will answer them in a special monthly column here.

ALL RAIL RIDERS WILL NEED SPECIAL PASS DURING POPE'S VISIT TO PHILLY

I am wondering how I am going to get to and from work during the days the World Meeting of Families is taking place. How does SEPTA plan to accommodate the regular commuters?

While the World Meeting of Families convenes Sept. 22-25, SEPTA will operate on normal weekday schedules Monday through Thursday. A determination will be made regarding service levels required for Friday once we have received information regarding whether some businesses will decide to close for the day. We encourage our regular riders to plan accordingly, perhaps by taking an earlier train than usual into work. During the papal visit on Saturday, Sept. 26 and Sunday, Sept. 27, all riders using Regional Rail — including regular SEPTA customers and visitors — will be required to pre-purchase a special one-day Papal Visit Pass. A total of just 18 outlying Regional Rail stations will be in operation. SEPTA will run express-type inbound-only service in the morning to the events, and outbound-only service afterward.

The pass / PROVIDED

Where to buy it

The passes are being sold online through an e-commerce website at Septa.org/papalvisitphilly.

- SEPTA is limiting the number of passes that will be sold, and requiring pre-purchase of the passes, to keep crowd numbers consistent with the capacity that will be available on Regional Rail trains and insure surety of service. SEPTA will double capacity

There are a lot of passengers who use the Thorndale line. Would you consider making one of the midday trains an express train to Thorndale rather than a local? This way those individuals working a half day can cut their commute home by 30 minutes.

The Paoli-Thorndale Line is SEPTA's highest ridership Regional Rail Line carrying over 22,000 daily riders. Express trains are scheduled during peak-hour periods when ridership from the farthest stations, beyond Malvern to Thorndale, is highest. However, during midday periods, ridership is higher at stations between Malvern and Center City. Expressing a train destined directly to Thorndale would not provide an adequate level of service to the local stations that would be skipped during midday hours.

Why has the 38 bus at 8:39 a.m. from the Art Museum toward Wissahickon been at least 10 minutes late every day for the past three months?

The Route 38, unfortunately, is subjected to detours and construction delays. The construction holdups are mainly in the area of the Art Museum. The project on the Spring Garden Street Bridge creates delays that can range from 10 minutes to 20 minutes. Motorists attempting to travel west on Route 76 exacerbate this problem due to the fact that the "Turn Only" lane for the expressway has been eliminated. A supervisor is assigned to ensure the trip in question is monitored.

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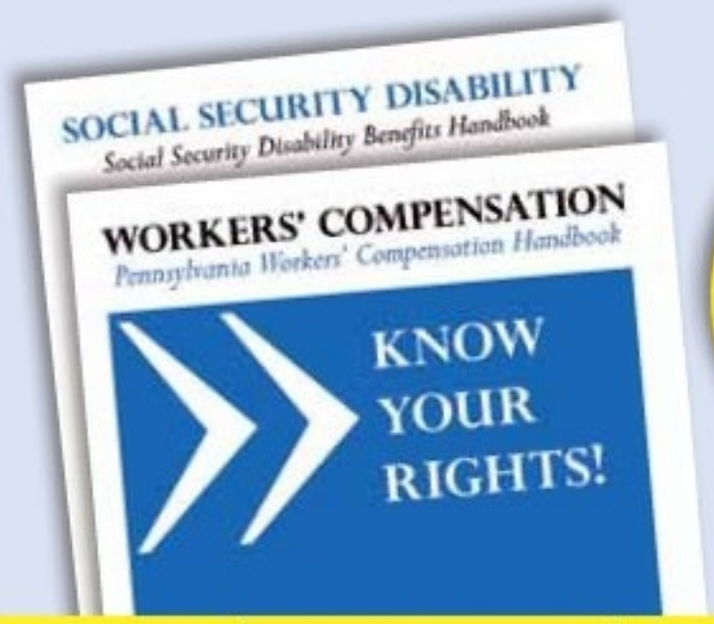

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Obama sends Iran deal to wary Congress, Israel urges rejection

Nuke agreement. Obama has promised to exercise his veto if Congress rejects the deal.

President Barack Obama's administration sent a nuclear agreement with Tehran to Congress on Sunday and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu urged U.S. lawmakers to reject a deal he said would only feed an "Iranian terror machine".

In a first concrete sign of European determination to quickly rebuild economic and political ties with Iran after a 12-year standoff, German Economy Minister Sigmar Gabriel arrived in Tehran with an economic delegation. Other European powers were expected to follow.

Overriding it would require a two-thirds majority of both the House of Representatives and Senate, so the administration is working to win over enough of Obama's fellow Democrats to offset strong Republican opposition.

In an unusual move, Obama took three Democratic congressman golfing with him: Joe Courtney of Connecticut, Ed Perlmutter of Colorado and John Yarmuth of Kentucky. The president more often taps aides and friends for weekend golfing.

"I think the right thing to do is merely not to go ahead with this deal," Netanyahu said on CBS's "Face the Nation" as he continued a string of U.S. media interviews denouncing the deal reached on Tuesday between Iran and six major powers.

"There are many things to be done to stop Iran's aggression and this deal is not one of them," he said.

Defense Secretary Ash Carter, arriving in Israel on the first visit by a U.S. cabinet official since the agreement, told reporters on his aircraft: "I'm not going to change anybody's mind in Israel. That's not the purpose of my trip.

Carter is also touring Jordan and Saudi Arabia, which both eye the prospect of increasing Iranian influence in the region with some suspicion. REUTERS

Quoted

"Friends can disagree but we have decades of rock-solid cooperation with Israel." Ash Carter

Obama, who must still overcome a congressional hurdle to enact the accord, said that if the United States does not seize the opportunity, "future generations will judge us harshly." / GETTY IMAGES

Nuclear agreement

Iran and Israel

Tehran denies Western and Israeli accusations it has been using a research program as cover for ambitions to develop atomic weapons. President Hassan Rouhani said on Saturday he expected the deal would lead to closer relations with Tehran's neighbors in the Gulf region, while Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei said Iran remained at odds with the West.

It was on Khamenei's words that Netanyahu seized, speaking to his cabinet on Sunday.

"The Iranians are not even trying to hide the fact they will take advantage of the hundreds of billions they will receive via the agreement to arm their terror machine," he said. "And they say explicitly they will continue their struggle against the United States and its allies, Israel of course above all." REUTERS

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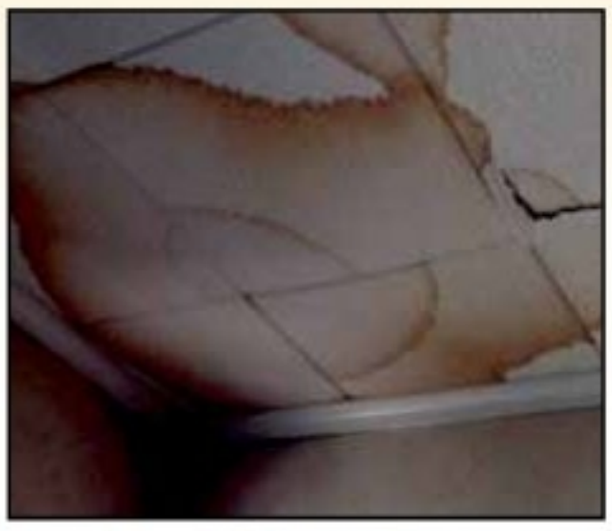

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Five things you need to know

1 Shooting stirs concerns about radicalization

Addressing his congregation on the Eid al-Fitr holiday celebrating the end of Ramadan, Imam Mohamed Abdul-Azeez implored worshipers to combat Muslim extremism in the aftermath of a shooting rampage that killed five servicemen in Tennessee.

The suspect, a young Muslim who grew up in the Chattanooga area, also died in the gunfight on Thursday, the last day of Islam's holy month of fasting.

It was the latest reminder to American Muslims of the need to find ways to keep teenagers and young adults from being drawn to ideologies promoted by such groups as Islamic State (ISIS), the militants who control part of Syria.

"When they talk about Syria, when they talk about Tennessee ... what will they say about the American Muslim community?" Azeez asked the 2,000 congregants at the rented hall in Sacramento, California, on Friday.

Hours before the attack, the suspect, Mohammod Youssuf Abdulazeez, had texted his close friend a link to a long Islamic verse that included the line: "Whosoever shows enmity to a friend of Mine, then I have declared war against him." REUTERS

A woman is overcome with emotion for the victims of the shooting. / GETTY IMAGES

2 Five bodies found inside northern California house: Police

Five bodies, including those of three children, were found inside a home in Modesto, California and police said they had identified a person of interest in connection with the deaths.

Modesto police did not provide any details on the victims, how they died, whether they were related or what their ages were. Police spokeswoman Heather Graves confirmed the dead included three children and two adults.

Detectives had identified a Modesto resident as a person of interest and made public his name, age and vehicle description and license plate number. REUTERS

3 Former President George H.W. Bush released from hospital

Former President George H.W. Bush was released from a hospital in Maine on Sunday after being treated for a broken bone in his neck, spokesman Jim McGrath said according to USA Today.

Bush, 91, the oldest living former American president, was hospitalized on Wednesday after a fall at his summer home in Kennebunkport. REUTERS

4 Greek banks ready to open

Greek banks are ready to open their branches across the country on Monday after a three-week shutdown, officials said, while German Chancellor Angela Merkel called for aid talks so Athens could lift withdrawal limits.

The bank reopenings, and an increase in value added tax on restaurant food and public transport from Monday, are aimed at restoring trust inside and outside Greece after an aid-for-reforms deal averted bankruptcy.

Greek Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras is trying to turn a corner after he reluctantly agreed to negotiate a third bailout, allowing the European Central Bank to top up bank credit lines but prompting a rebellion in his Syriza party. REUTERS

5 Lockheed to buy Sikorsky for over $8B

Lockheed Martin Corp., the largest U.S. weapons maker, has agreed to buy United Technologies Corp's Sikorsky Aircraft unit, the maker of Black Hawk helicopters, for over $8 billion, a source familiar with the negotiations said on Sunday.

The two companies plan to announce the deal on Monday before both report second-quarter results on Tuesday, said the source, who was not authorized to speak publicly.

It will be Lockheed's largest acquisition since it bought Martin Marietta Corp for about $10 billion two decades ago. REUTERS

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Republican

Scott Walker brushes up on foreign policy

Scott Walker had a steep learning curve on U.S. foreign policy after some miscues in his race for the Republican presidential nomination. Now an eager student of global affairs, he is staking out positions that play well to conservatives.

Republicans generally do not put Walker in the category of a strategic foreign policy thinker.

But he has been brushing up.

This was evident on a campaign bus tour across South Carolina and Iowa.

Walker saw no need for diplomatic niceties in response to the Iran nuclear deal that President Barack Obama announced last week with Tehran: He would terminate it as soon as possible and persuade U.S. allies to join Washington in imposing more crippling economic sanctions on Tehran. REUTERS

Police. Drunken driver kills four bridesmaids in New York limo

Clockwise from left: Grabina, Baruch, Belli, Arundel / FACEBOOK

Four women were killed in a tragic car crash late Saturday afternoon in Cutchogue, New York, according to Southhold police.

The women were leaving a bachelorette party at Vineyard 48 on Long Island in a limousine when they were hit by a pickup truck on Route 48, reported ABC 7.

Brittany M. Schulman, 23, and Lauren Baruch, 24, of Smithtown; Stephanie Belli, 23, from Kings Park; and Amy Grabina, 23, from Commack were killed.

Joelle Dimont, 25, from Elwood; Melissa Angela Crai, 23, from Scarsdale; and Alicia Arundel, 24, from Setauket were taken to local hospitals. Carlos Pino, 58, the driver of the limousine, was also taken to the hospital.

The driver of the pickup truck, Steven Romeo, 55, has been charged with drunk driving. The arraignment came from his hospital bedside at Eastern Long Island Hospital, and his bail was set at $500,000. His lawyer did not immediately return a call for comment. Romeo is the co-owner of Romeo Dimon Marine Services.

The limousine was making a U-turn at the intersection of Route 48 and Depot Lane when it was struck by Romeo's truck. JULIA SHU

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POLITIPALOOZA!

The Foreman forecast

TOM FOREMAN

TOM FOREMAN PREDICTS THIS WEEK IN POLITICS. HE IS A CNN CORRESPONDENT AND AUTHOR OF THE UPCOMING BOOK "MY YEAR OF RUNNING DANGEROUSLY: A DAD, A DAUGHTER, AND A RIDICULOUS PLAN."

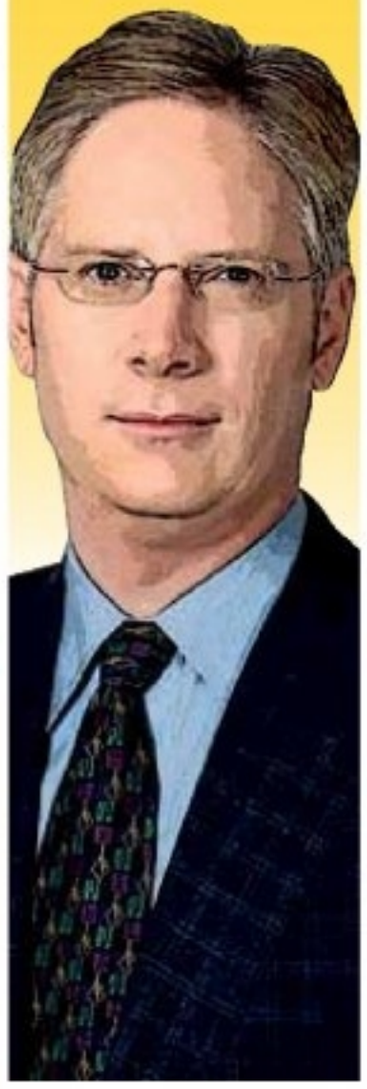

PHOTO ILLUSTRATION, BILLY BECERRA

When politicians aren't ripping off musicians by using their hits at campaign rallies, they're trying to develop a little of that rock star swagger that lights up the concert circuit every summer. So as Beck says, "One, two, you know what to do!" — here are three things to watch this week in politics.

1. HAIR BANNED: Donald Trump may yet prove to be a "one-hit wonder," but for the moment he keeps burning up the political charts with his version of "The Immigrant Song." Political pundits thought he'd break a string long before now, but he's still shredding away on lead guitar while the rest of the Republicans grudgingly play rhythm. Despite that, I'm going to stick with my earlier prediction and tell you to just keep watching: This could be the week that public amusement at his antics runs out, and this MC Hammer of politics turns into ... well, the MC Hammer of politics.

2. "I BEEN IN THE RIGHT PLACE ... MUST HAVE BEEN THE WRONG TIME": Hillary Clinton has not even been talking about her Democratic rivals, while buying up $8 million worth of TV time in Iowa and New Hampshire to campaign against them. But players in both parties are now converging more often on key states for the 2016 race, and that is going to bring more face-to-face confrontations soon. As Donald Fagan might say, they'll be "trading fours," and that could make it all much more unpredictable and fun for the rest of us. Watch for some blistering licks to be laid down by the challengers for the front-runners to answer ... if they can.

3. AND I RAN (SO FAR AWAY): Yes, kids, that was a song, by the brilliantly coiffed Flock of Seagulls. Iran is also Priority No. 1 at the White House, where you can expect the business of whipping up support for the Iran nuke deal to continue with fervor this week. When it's all over, Joe Biden may yell, "I've got blisters on my fingers!" but for now he's playing his heart out for congressional votes.

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2 CULTURE

Twitter feed

Today, Emma Bunton has outlandish desires, Aaron Paul is curious and Miles Teller is relieved.

@EmmaBunton: I'd love a warm almond Croissant and a cup of tea in bed..... That's never gonna happen

@aaronpaul_8: I wonder if Donald Trump will get a vote. If he does I would love to meet that one person. I would be a little scared but I would do it.

@Miles_Teller: I thought my floor was sticky but I just had tape on my shoe

1

Australia serious about that Johnny Depp dog stuff

Maybe next time they won't turn up their noses at my dogsitting.

So that Australian official wasn't just making empty threats about Johnny Depp and Amber Heard smuggling their Yorkies into the country. Heard was officially charged late last week with two counts of illegally importing pets and one count of producing a false document, violating Australia's strict quarantine regulations. Heard's charges carry a maximum sentence of 10 years in prison and a $102,000 fine if convicted, though I don't see that happening. Of course, I thought this was all ridiculous blustering on the minister's part to begin with, so what do I know? Heard, it comes as little surprise, has previously said that she doesn't imagine her or Depp visiting the land Down Under again anytime soon.

THE WORD

Ned Ehrbar takes on the world of gossip.

NED EHRBAR
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2

Rumer Willis is going to 'Chicago'

Did you know Rumer Willis could sing? Unless you're living in L.A. and frequenting The Sayers Club, probably not, but Willis is about to make a massive stage upgrade to Broadway, taking over the role of singing jailbird Roxie Hart in "Chicago" for eight weeks beginning Aug. 18. Willis is also working on an album with Linda Perry, who's written and produced songs for Christina Aguilera and Gwen Stefani. "Chicago" has attracted many celebrity names over its 18-year run, most recently Brandy Norwood, also in the role of Roxie Hart until Aug 2. Melanie Griffith, Sofia Vergara and Taye Diggs have all done stints in the show. EVA KIS

LOOK OUT, GREAT WHITE WAY.

ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

3

Patrick Stewart reading Taylor Swift lyrics is everything

Oh, NPR. Sometimes you're just the best. The radio network's "Ask Me Another" game show has released a clip from an episode debuting next month featuring Sir Patrick Stewart — who has arguably one of the most awesome voices in the world — being made to do a spirited, emotive reading of the lyrics to Taylor Swift's "Blank Space." I honestly don't know how we made it this far in life without it, because now I can't imagine it not existing. In fact, it might just become my outgoing voice mail message. I'm sure mom will understand.

Daily video

Amy Schumer sexts from Katie Couric's phone

Katie Couric apparently doesn't lock her phone, but I'd imagine this prank by Amy Schumer at the Glamour Women of the Year Awards was enough to convince Couric to upgrade her security features. "She left her phone open to a text from [her husband]," Schumer tells Jimmy Fallon. "I picked it up and I just without even thinking text him, 'I want to have anal tonight,' and I sent it." Whoops. Or who knows, maybe Schumer just made their marriage even better.

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Q&A. "Ant-Man" co-star T.I. balances music, acting and raising six kids.

Double duty

David Dastmalchian, Paul Rudd and T.I. enjoy some waffles in "Ant-Man." / MARVEL ENTERTAINMENT

How many films does a guy have to do before people stop thinking of him as "just a rapper"? Atlanta native T.I., who got his start in music, has been doing just fine in front of the camera since making his screen debut 10 years ago in "ATL." But sometimes some people still need to be reminded of that. Maybe with his latest, Marvel's "Ant-Man," he won't have to anymore.

Were you much of a comics fan in general before this project?
I had a fling. I collected a lot of "X-Men" and "Wolverine" comics in the early '90s. I lost them. I lost the whole collection — like 35 books — and I was deflated. I just couldn't start over again. I just couldn't.

Before you got involved, how much had you heard about "Ant-Man"?
Not much. He isn't the best known of the Marvel team, but that's great because now we can introduce him to the world — and get credit for it.

What was the first thing you thought when they explained him to you?
This script better be good.

The movie is actually very funny, even for Marvel.
Sure. I mean, it's hard not to be with Paul. I don't think it was even written in the script to be as funny as it is. I think that the on-screen chemistry and the environment that was set contributed to the amount of laughs that it gets.

It's been a decade since "ATL," and you do plenty of acting. But do you still find yourself having to remind people that you're not just a rapper?
I mean, I don't remind people of anything — unless their decision will gain or lose an opportunity for me. Like, the worst thing is for people to actually be the determiner of whether or not you get an opportunity and have that mentality — "Oh, he's just a rapper." No, I commit myself to just about anything that I do and give 1,000 percent. I don't just fly by the seat of my pants doing stuff halfheartedly. And I think just reminding people that I'm a very passionate artist and performer in any genre, in any area — I mean, it's a pain in the ass, but from time to time, you kind of have to.

T.I. GETTY IMAGES

That's a good problem to have, having two careers going at the same time.
Yeah, not bad.

One more thing

So do you get any time to relax?
No, no. Heavens no. I have an album that I'm releasing, this film, still working on a script for "ATL 2," trying to balance all of these things. These six children I got, they won't necessarily let me rest. If they would just stop growing and eating so much. [Laughs]

Well, you know, I'm trying to get them both to the pinnacle. I'm very passionate about my music and equally passionate about my acting career.

What's your game plan for that?
In music, I have another album that I'm releasing and just making the best possible music that satisfies the fans — and picking the most appropriate roles that will surprise people in a way that they never thought that they would see me perform. I think that if you balance those things in both fields, eventually the inevitable outcome is success.

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Dr. Okon received his medical degree from Thomas Jefferson University Hospital. He then completed his residency in Family Medicine at Christiana Care and went on to do a fellowship in Sports Medicine at Thomas Jefferson University.

Dr. Okon will see patients at Rothman Institute's Northeast office across from Nazareth Hospital. To schedule an appointment, call 800.321.9999.

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A stitch in time

Tattoo artist Nicole May hard at work. / PROVIDED

Fresh ink.
Grandma would totally approve of this tattoo trend.

Maybe it's because of Etsy. Maybe it's because of those NSFW needlepoint pillows taking over Pinterest. Whatever the reason, cross-stitch tattoos are having a moment.

Eva Karabudak, a Turkish tattoo artist based in Ankara, has become world famous for mastering the trend. "I used to do cross-stitch on canvas and cloth at home and decided to do tattoos out of it," she tells us. At first, she tried it out on friends. She was hooked immediately.

"It's an anchor back to a lot of people's childhoods. That's why I believe it gets noticed," she says.

Nicole May, 38, a tattoo artist at Tiki Town Tattoo in Alberta, Canada, says she definitely has seen cross-stitch tattoos becoming increasingly popular. "I see a lot of subversive cross-stitch on Etsy, and I feel like it is something a lot of young people are picking up as a hobby," says May. "Cross-stitch tattoos have become popular along with the general trend of cross-stitch."

If you want to jump on the trend, her biggest tip is to find an artist who actually cross-stitches as a hobby. "They'll have a better understanding of design layout and execution," she says.

Here, three people share the stories behind their cross-stitch tattoos.

EMILY LAURENCE
@EmLaurence
emily.laurence@metro.us

Ashley Rieck

Age: 31
Occupation: Manager of Unglued gift store
Location: Sioux Falls, South Dakota
"I own a cross-stitch business called Hatch605 and manage a modern makers gift store, so I am around makers all day. When people see my tattoo, I typically get reactions from older generations because it evokes a nostalgic feeling. They always have to stop and tell me that either they or a loved one used to cross-stitch. I love hearing their stories. To me, it's a way to keep traditional art alive."

Brittany Wiebe

Age: 28
Occupation: Homemaker/cross-stitcher for hire
Location: Alberta, Canada
"I have a small business where I custom cross-stitch family portraits. On all the portraits, I include a red heart that floats over the family. It's my signature. People find my tattoo very unique. The most reoccurring compliment I get is how much it suits me."

Crystal Balser

Age: 35
Occupation: Owner of MOD Tattoo
Location: Ontario, Canada
"A fellow tattoo artist and I wanted to figure out how to do a cross-stitch tattoo. We are both very crafty with crocheting and cross-stitching, so it just made sense. It's challenging, and we wanted to experiment, so I let her try it out on me!"

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Art on a grand scale

Exhibit. Traction Company ponders what will happen if its studio disappears — meanwhile, members are making 8,000-pound pieces.

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Art collective Traction Company is made up of PAFA alumni and faculty. / BARBARA KATUS

An 8,000-square-foot former trolley manufacturing warehouse in West Philadelphia is the workplace, gathering space and namesake for Traction Company, a 12-member arts collective made up of Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts alumni and faculty members. "Traction Company is both a thing and a place," explained PAFA director Harry Philbrick during a preview of the museum's latest exhibition.

Beyond the walls within which they make their art, however, space is a constant concern for Traction Company members. The neighborhood is always in flux, and the collective's home at 41st Street and Haverford Avenue is at the nexus of the expanding Penn and Drexel campuses. Having such an extravagant studio space is a luxury — the members fear — that may come to an abrupt end at any moment.

"We don't know the fate of our studio where all this magic happens," says Traction Company co-founder Billy Blaise Dufala. "The reality of that situation is tragic, and what's happening in that neighborhood is pretty tragic. There's student housing everywhere and people being forced out."

Dufala makes these foreboding points while standing beside his contribution to the exhibit: a 3,000-pound cast-iron sculpture made of life-size, action-figure-styled body parts representing preadolescent suicide bombers.

Other dramatic pieces in the show include Brendan Keen's 14-foot wooden piece resembling a giant seed pod etched with a night starscape, John Greig Jr.'s elaborately mounted stone inspired by Chinese scholar stones and Joshua Koffman's plaster piece commissioned by St. Joseph's University for the pope's impending visit.

But the exhibition space is dominated by an enormous triangular wooden truss, weighing 8,000 pounds and measuring 64-by-14 feet. Built using mainly 19th-century construction processes, the truss is a full-scale replica of one of the trusses holding Traction Company's roof in place and was made using wood from a similar building in the neighborhood that had been demolished to make way for new condos.

"A lot of this exhibition is centered around this idea of what would happen if this building didn't exist," explains curator Jodi Throckmorton. "It's a memorial to the building if it were to disappear."

Morgan Dummitt works on a sculpture. / BARBARA KATUS

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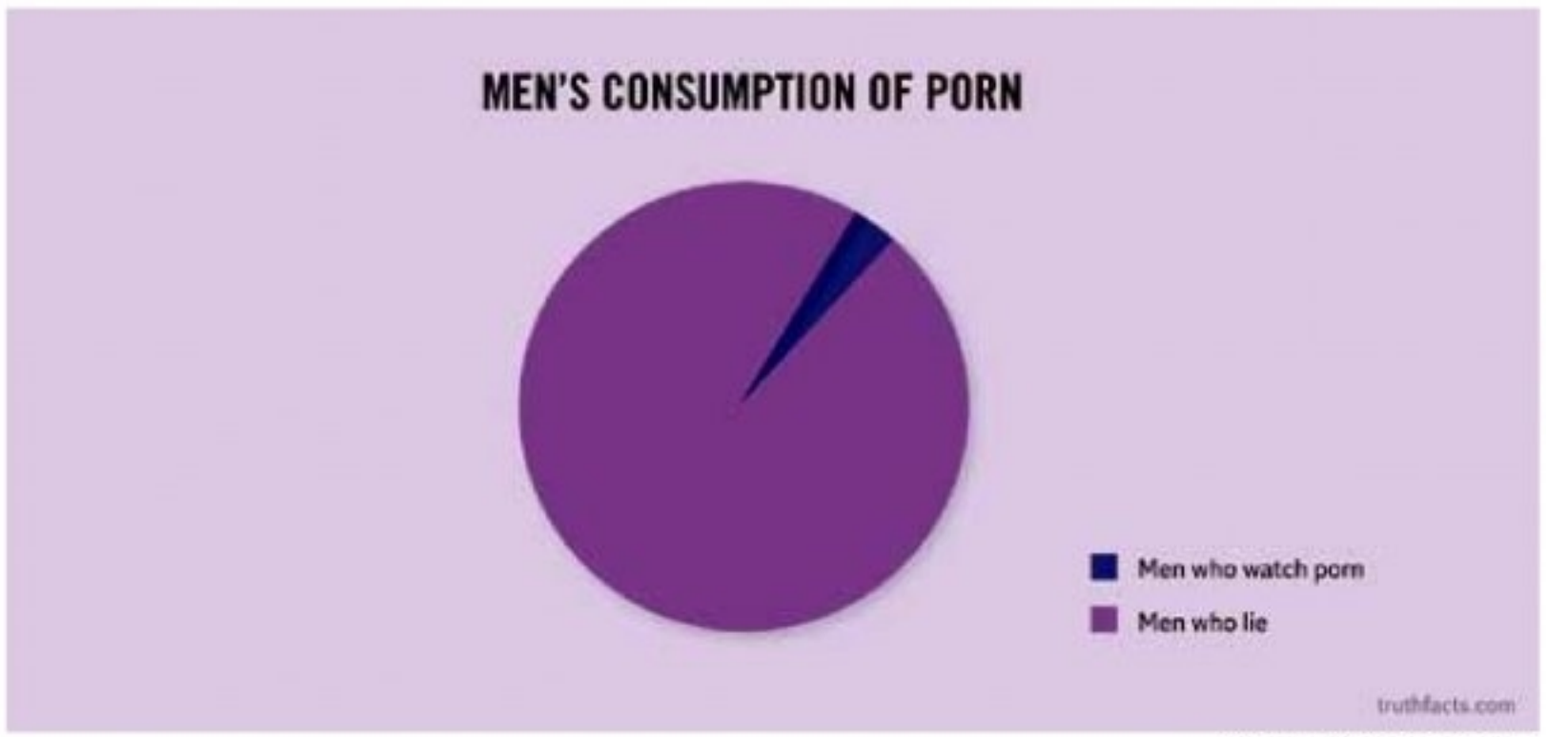


metro.us
/games

BY WULFF & MORGENTHALER

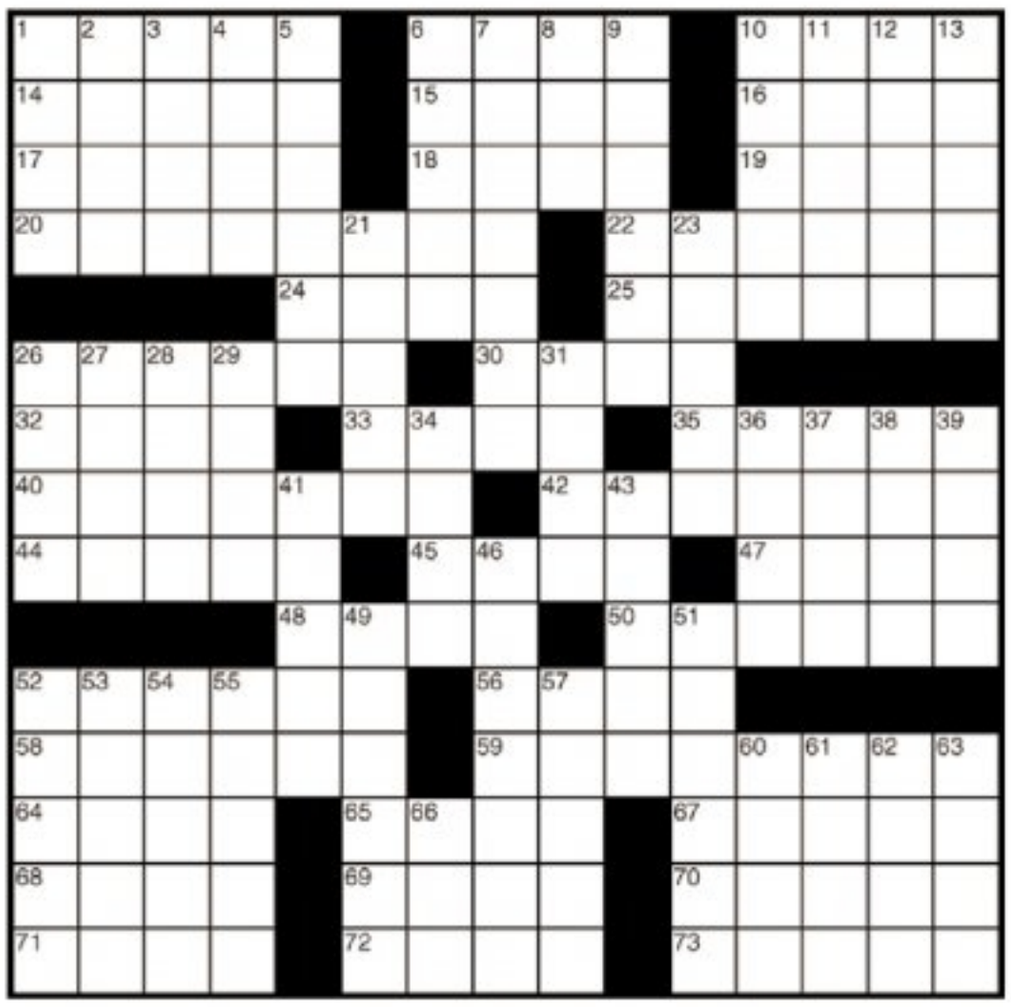
/crossword

Across
1 Tough fabric
6 Betrayed a secret
10 Lap dog, slangily
14 Crawled out of bed
15 "— Ben Adhem"
16 Matador cheers
17 Greedy king of myth
18 Oasis' rival
19 Simple Simon's treats
20 Tot's game
22 Firefly, for one
24 Kind of companion
25 Judge
26 Dr. Zhivago
30 Polite bloke
32 Hearty green
33 Like cheetahs
35 AOL message
40 Stocking warmer? (2 wds.)
42 Fix flowers
44 Assuage
45 Domed recess
47 Pushes off
48 TV adjuncts
50 Criminal evidence
52 Whiskey measure
56 Time long past
58 Hold closely
59 Swamp sound
64 Rorschach image
65 Worker's safety org.
67 Birchbark boat
68 Most desirable
69 Cafe au —
70 Alpine region
71 Bohemian
72 Livy's "Lo!"
73 Doesn't hide

Down
1 Not quite soggy
2 Huron neighbor
3 Bump or knot
4 Ms. Dinesen
5 Iron-rich range
6 Off-limits
7 Rectangles
8 Grammy winner — Rawls
9 South African port

FOR THE ANSWERS TO TODAY'S PUZZLES, VISIT metro.us/games

10 Vatican figures
11 In-crowd
12 Dirigible bottoms
13 Mountain curves
21 Acclaimed on Broadway
23 Organic compound
26 The — the limit!
27 Burglar's take
28 "— en el Rancho Grande"
29 Awful smell
31 Depot info
34 Culture dish goo
36 Balthazar et al.
37 Familiar auth.
38 "— — Around"
39 More, to some
41 Pry bar
43 Dupe
46 Clairvoyant
49 Bayou dweller
51 Gives feedback
52 "Star Wars" gangster
53 Clock watcher
54 Seance invitee
55 J. Paul —
57 Give an address
60 Actor Danny —
61 As to (2 wds.)
62 Dinette spot
63 Mousse alternatives
66 Cul-de- —



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easy

	3	4		8		7		2
								6
6	7		4	1		5		
		3						
8	2		7		5		9	1
						8		
		5		6	4		2	7
1								
9		7		2		6	8	

hard

	4	9		2			8	6
						9		
			4			1		2
				5	6	4		9
	2		7	3	9		6	
9		3	8	1				
4		2			1			
		8						
1	7			4		6	2	

/horoscopes

Aries Money is heading your way. Sell something you no longer need. Look after your personal affairs to avoid a disagreement.

Taurus Put the finishing touches on a project. Even if your schedule is full, be sure to save some time for the people who mean the most.

Gemini No matter what the issue, ignoring your problems will not make them go away. Face the facts and make decisions.

Cancer Look into an interesting product or service as an investment opportunity. Moneymaking prospects should be considered seriously.

Leo You have a unique way of looking at situations and problems that arise. Sharing your ideas with others will allow you to make a contribution.

Virgo Trying to take on too much too fast will leave you confused. Get your priorities in order and tackle one task at a time.

Libra You are on the right track, making advancement possible with just a few minor changes. Your concern for others is what will set you apart.

Scorpio A positive attitude will lead to victory. Your unique ideas will bring in more help than you anticipate. Financial deals look promising.

Sagittarius Don't waste time following the crowd. You are best off making choices that are beneficial to you. Be truthful.

Capricorn Now that you know what you want, go get it. This is a great day to enter negotiations, tie up deals and forge partnerships.

Aquarius In order to make a relationship work, compromise will be needed. If a loved one is having a difficult time, help find a solution.

Pisces You don't want to burn bridges, especially when personal relationships or business partnerships are involved. **EUGENIA LAST**

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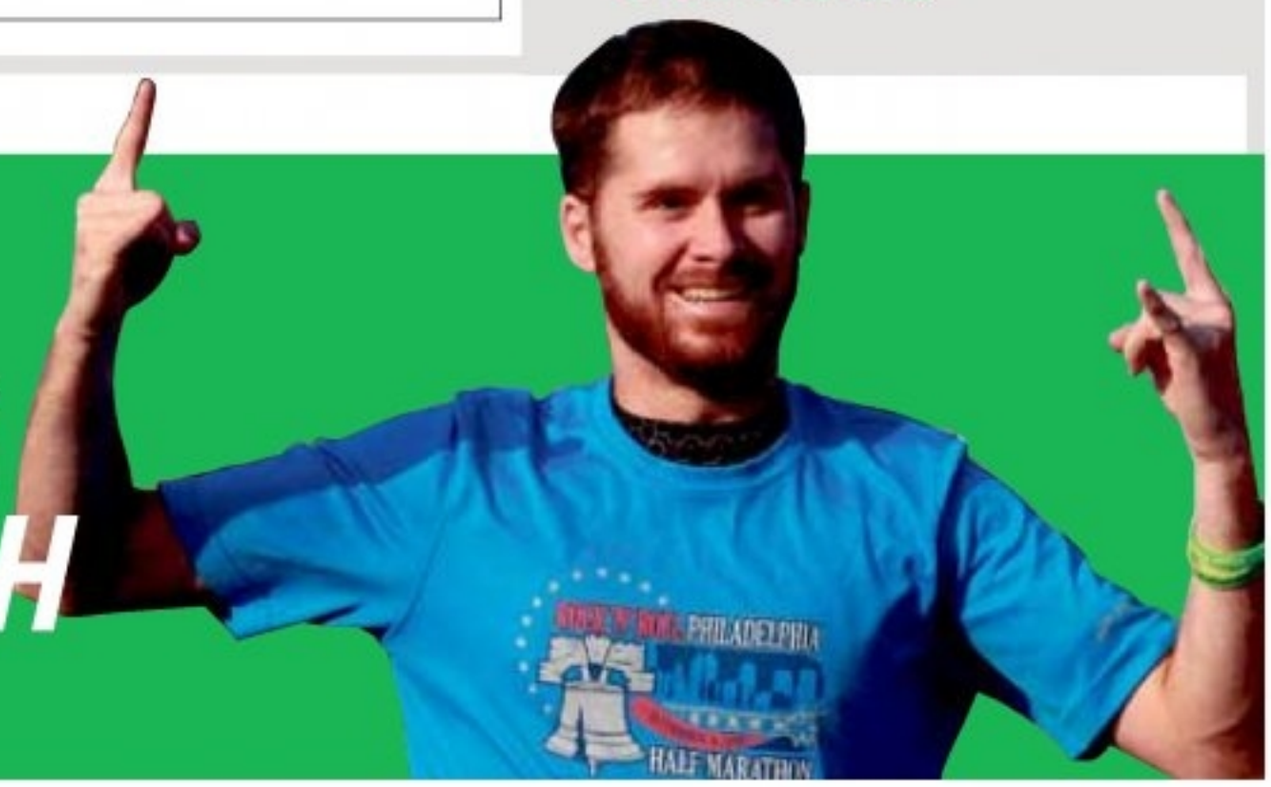

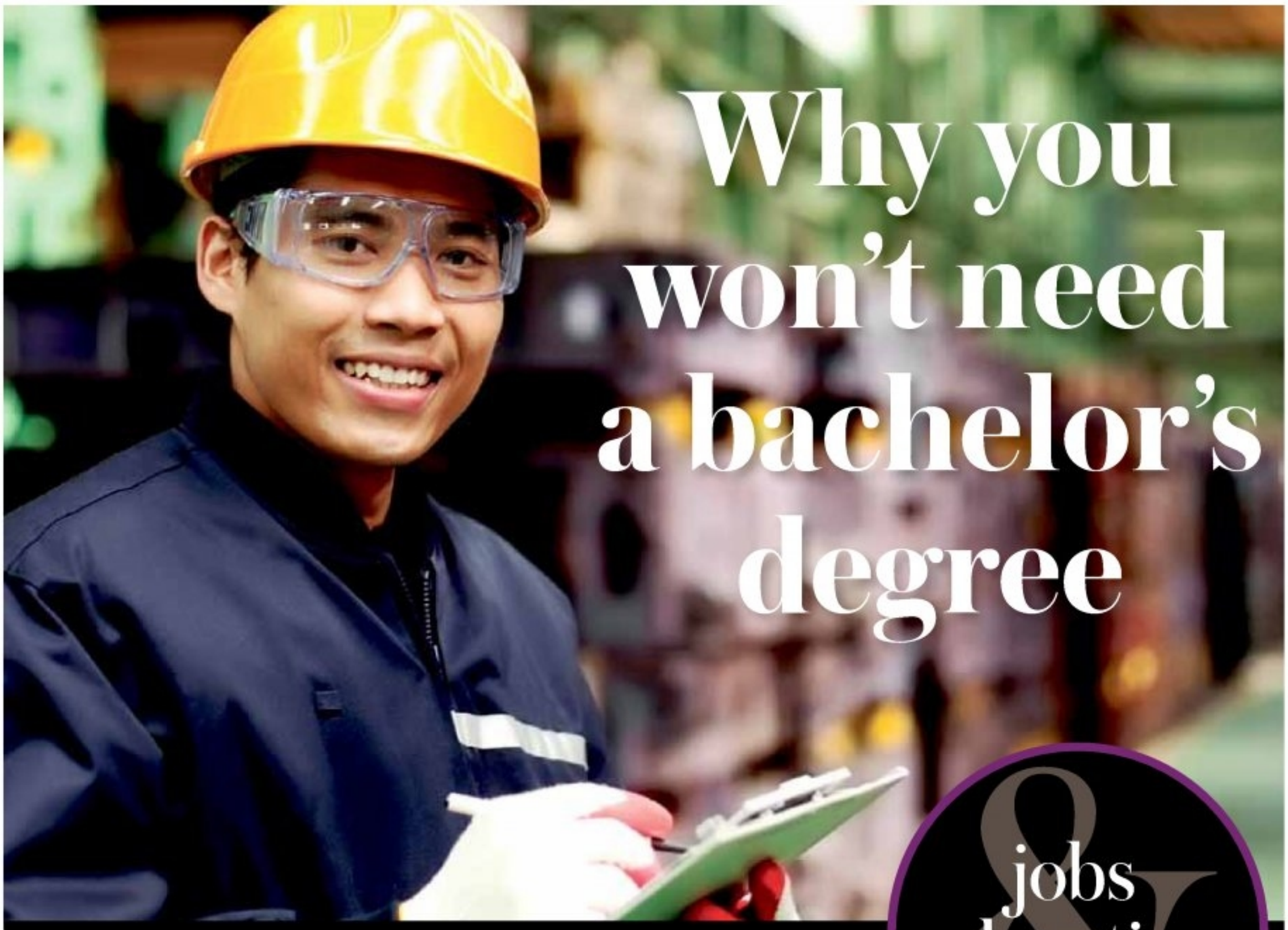

Why you won't need a bachelor's degree

HOW TO GET AHEAD

jobs & education

The future workforce will demand more flexibility, ingenuity and imagination than a four-year liberal arts education can offer.

RACHEL KASHDAN
@MetroPhilly
letters@metro.us

The past two decades of innovation have changed America's economic landscape in ways that are vast and irreversible. From the gig economy to the sharing economy, it seems like every day, our businesses and lives are reshaped by modernization.

"We're going through a digital revolution that's as large-scale as the Industrial Revolution we experienced more than 100 years ago," says Philip Zelikow, visiting managing director of the Markle Foundation and co-author of "America's Moment: Creating Opportunity in the Connected Age."

"We've moved [past] the industrial age of the white-collar job in the office and the blue-collar job in a factory. That's so different from the real world now," says Zelikow.

"The old system is limiting; it forces people to fit into boxes," he continues. "The new system is all about customizing the box that fits you."

We asked Zelikow how exactly students can go about doing that.

Forget the standard bachelor's degree

According to Zelikow, we need to reinvent educational institutions and adjust job credentials to create more opportunities.

Some institutions are beginning to do this, like College for America at Southern New Hampshire University, which Zelikow says offers "more flexible educational programs and more flexible credentials," such as its associate degree for non-clinical health care. The program targets working adults with a "competency-based approach" that awards students a degree at their own pace after demonstrating mastery of goals tied directly to career demands.

Remember that college doesn't make or break your path to success

Zelikow also says that young people should know that they don't have to go to college to get a job. There are many career paths today that require a different kind of skill set that you don't need to attend college to learn.

"Take, for instance, entry-level [information technology] jobs — there's a whole well-paid career path in the IT world," he says. "The entry-level job might be, say, working at a help desk. You don't have to get a B.A. degree to learn to work at an IT help desk. Then if you've done that for a while, you might take some more stuff and become a systems administrator. So, why not offer people options like that?"

No collar

"We don't really know how to classify people who are software developers," says Zelikow. "There are more lines of code in a Chevy Volt than there are in a 737, [but] people don't think of the automotive industry as a center for software developers. This is what we mean about a 'no-collar world.'"

But it should never be too late to go back to school

Those who forgo a degree early on should still have the opportunity to get a college education later in their lives if and when it makes sense for them to do so to gain the skills needed to advance their careers, Zelikow says.

"We have this notion that the only time you can get a good liberal arts education is between the ages of 18 and 22. That's wrong," he explains. "The 'sorry you missed the highway entrance, so now you can never get on' is a terrible attitude to take. We ought to make college available for anyone at any time."

Take initiative

Above all, Zelikow says he doesn't want people to feel like they cannot get the training that they need to live successful lives.

"I don't want people to feel trapped by the old institutions because there are more ways to prepare for the life you want than ever before," he says. "A lot of the tools for people to help themselves are already out there. They're just not as well-developed as they should be, and they're not as recognized as they should be."

To fix that, he says Americans need to call for change from government officials and workplace heads.

"Demand that political, business and education leaders really grab the digital age with both hands and start talking about it."

Briefs

WIKICOMMONS

Babson beats MIT and Harvard in Money's annual college ranking

Money magazine has named Babson the No. 2 college in the U.S. The list ranks some 1,500 schools based on educational quality, affordability and alumni earnings.

The Boston college — which specializes in business and entrepreneurship — is unique in that it only offers one degree: a B.S. in business. Students get hands-on experience, launching a business during their freshmen year (all profits of which go to a charity) and interning with local companies throughout their four years. Such focus pays off, literally: Alumni earn an average yearly salary of $60,100 within five years of graduation, or "about $9,300 more than the average for recent grads of comparable schools," reports Money.

Stanford snagged the No. 1 spot, with MIT, Princeton and CalTech rounding out the top five. (Harvard ranked No. 6.)

Raquel Laneri

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3 SPORTS

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Philly talent shines at The Basketball Tournament

The Basketball Tournament. The Liberty Ballers have a true shot at the $1 million prize.

Former Big 5 stars represented the city well this weekend. / GETTY IMAGES

Team Liberty Ballers advanced to the Super 17 of The Basketball Tournament on Sunday with a convincing 85-73 win over the Georgetown-studded team DMV's Finest.

Now only four wins away from $1 million in this 5-on-5, single-elimination, winner-take-all tournament, this squad of homegrown Philly talent, which includes Villanova's Reggie Redding and Antonio Pena as well as Temple's Ryan Brooks and St. Joseph's Garrett Williamson, has their eyes on the ultimate prize.

"Over the years we've really developed that pride and Philly toughness," Redding said. "Our mentality is to protect our house and to keep winning for the people of this city."

Redding is the team's leading scorer through two games. He's averaging 18.5 points and 6.5 assists, while displaying his impressive shooting ability which made him such a threat for the Wildcats. Pena has added 14.5 points per game, while Siena's Ryan Rossiter has averaged nearly a double-double with 11 points and nine rebounds.

"We're all back from playing professional, and it brings back memories of the battles we had all the way back to high school for a lot of us," Brooks said. "To come back here and to show the country how far we've come as players together is always fun."

Liberty Ballers will now head to Chicago to play the winner of Boeheim's Army and 20th & Olney, in a potential Philly matchup in the Super 17, starting July 23.

20th & Olney features former La Salle players Jerrell Wright, Tyreek Duren and Tyrone Garland who were a part of the Explorers Sweet 16 run in the NCAA Tournament in 2013. Boeheim's Army is a Syracuse-based team with Philly native Hakim Warrick, Demetris Nichols and Eric Devendorf among others.

"We know both of those teams and we've played with a lot of those guys and are familiar with a lot of those guys," Redding said. "It would be crazy to play either of those teams. It will add even more intensity to the game."

Brooks speaks on The Basketball Tournament:

"It's caught everyone's attention now when you say TBT or the Tournament. People know what it is and they know what it's all about. It's really on the come up and it's something that we all look forward to playing in, in the summer time."

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Phillies face hard questions

MLB. The upcoming trade deadline could define the Phillies' franchise for years to come.

Maikel Franco is one of the lone bright spots on the roster. / GETTY IMAGES

The Phillies started the second half an unfathomable 33 games under .500. As the team enters the back end of its most difficult season, there are plenty of questions to be asked.

What will the beginning of the Aaron Nola era yield?
It's been a quarter century since the Phillies selected a pitcher, who made his debut a year after being tabbed in the draft (the last was Pat Combs). Nola makes his overdue debut Tuesday against the Tampa Bay Rays. The polished LSU product has been exceptional throughout his 13-month stay in the minors. His control is nearly Cliff Lee-esque. Will Nola, who was 10-4 with a 2.39 ERA in 18 starts in Double-A and Triple-A, attack the strike zone in the majors like he has throughout his career? Is Nola a No. 2 or a mid-rotation starter?

Will Maikel Franco continue to flourish?
The promising third baseman has cooled off since his epic assault of the New York Yankees last month. But Franco has been rock solid. His plate discipline has been better than anticipated. Franco makes contact with 80 percent of his swings and his defense is as good as advertised.

What will happen to Cole Hamels?
The mystery will end by July 31. Either King Cole will be dealt for a package of prospects or he'll continue to toil for the worst team in baseball. This is obviously a massive issue for the Phillies. If the Phillies make the right deal, they will be much closer to contention in say, 2018. The Phillies can't settle for a less-than-stellar package al a the Cliff Lee deal. Metro says Andy MacPhail and company will play it conservative and hold on to the second-best left-hander in club history unless they get the prospects they desire.

Is Cesar Hernandez for real?
Hernandez had a good June but it's a small sample set. There are still questions about whether he is a starting major league second baseman or a utility guy. The only way to answer that question is to start Hernandez, who has struggled of late, at second the rest of the way, which is apparently the plan.

How to deal with Chase Utley?
It'll be interesting to see how the Phillies deal with the franchise icon once he's back from his ankle injury. Utley was at the center of the greatest run in Phillies history. Expect Utley to score spot starts at second and first base. It's the beginning of the end of the Utley era.

What will Jonathan Papelbon say when he's still in a Phillies uniform Aug. 1?
The Phillies want to deal Pap, but if it was so easy it would have been accomplished at this time last year. Papelbon, the Phillies lone All-Star, has been a very effective closer. But the combination of his salary and personality hurt any potential deals.

Can Brown do anything for the Phillies?
If Domonic Brown continues to struggle at the plate, this has to be the swan song for the Phillies greatest enigma. He has all the physical tools but it just hasn't worked.

History beckons. The franchise record for losses is an attainable 111. This team has fallen incredibly far in such a short period of time. Just four seasons ago, the Phillies lost 60 games. The current club dropped 62 games by the All-Star break. Can it get better? Perhaps the beginning of the Nola era will offer a glimmer of hope. It's difficult to imagine it could get any worse for a team that somehow lost 39 of its last 52 games going into the break.

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Flyers first-rounders feel love during camp

NHL. Ivan Provorov and Travis Konecny have successful first weeks as Flyers.

First-round draft picks Ivan Provorov and Travis Konecny were trying to make lasting first impressions during the Flyers development camp held in the second week of July.

However, neither highly touted player was trying to earn a job with the parent club. Both agreed they will worry about that in the second week of September.

"The goal of this camp is not about trying to make the Flyers," said Konecny, a forward, who the Flyers traded up five spots to select at No. 24 in last month's draft. "That happens in September at training camp. The goal here is to continue to develop as a player."

Each player felt he left camp a better player than when he arrived and thought the camp was an excellent introduction to professional hockey.

"It's been great," said Provorov, a defenseman, who was taken with the No. 7 overall pick. "The speed of the game is pretty fast but this camp is only going to help us get better. It's been a lot of work and a good week."

For five days, players were put through a series of drills that tested every aspect of their game. Keeping with the theme of the camp, though, it was more about instruction and teaching from the coaching staff rather than evaluating.

The camp roster, which included 33 players, consisted of 24 guys the team has drafted in the last four years.

Quoted

"It's only July and they are crazy about [hockey], so that is good."

Flyers first round pick Ivan Provorov, commenting on the dedication he's already seen from fans this summer.

"It's highly skilled here," said Konecny, who signed a three-year entry level deal last Thursday. "We are all on the same level. There are guys here that have played at many different levels. It's good to play against them and try and raise my game to the next level."

At the conclusion of the camp, players got a good idea of where they stood among their peers and what areas they need to improve. They have just two short months until they must report back for training camp.

"I think I am going to work on everything," said Provorov, who planned to return to Russia until the fall. "I think I am a complete player, so I just want to work on every aspect of my game, and once we get into September I need to get used to the speed of play."

The camp wasn't limited to just time on the ice, either.

As they do every year, the camp shifted to Stone Harbor for one day for Trial on the Isle. The players participated in random camaraderie activities on the beach and in the water.

"It was great to get down there," Konecny said. "When we came in on Tuesday [the first day], a lot of us didn't know each other. After spending the day on the beach together, we bonded well. And it was a lot of fun and we did things that I have never done before."

It was also a chance for both of the rookies to get an up-close look at the fan base — and vice versa.

"Before I came here, I always knew Philly fans were crazy," Provorov said. "I got to witness that [down at the beach and even here at the rink]. I am happy they love hockey."

Travis Konecny was a late-first-round steal for the Flyers. / GETTY IMAGES

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Jeff Francoeur is batting over .500 as a pinch-hitter this season. / GETTY IMAGES

Phillies walk off to complete sweep

MLB. The Phillies overcame a stinker from Cole Hamels to win their third straight Sunday.

After Cole Hamels lasts just three innings and you give up leads twice against a division foe, what do you do? You walk, and then walk off on a two-run homer from Jeff Francoeur, that's what you do.

The Phillies breathed more life into what was a seemingly lifeless franchise with a third straight win Sunday, a 8-7 win on the final swing. Francoeur has been a pinch-hitting savant lately, increasing his trade value tremendously. The Phillies ace, however, has been hurting his.

While Hamels has undoubtedly shown he can anchor a rotation, his last two starts have raised his ERA from 3.02 to 3.91.

After extra rest following his worst career outing last week, (July 10 when Hamels allowed nine runs on 12 hits in 3.1 innings pitched), he was pulled Sunday after three frames and five earned runs.

Handed a 5-2 lead, Hamels was pummelled by the Marlins as they closed the gap two separate times. Thankfully, the offensive heroics of Francoeur made Hamels' struggles a little easier to bare.

The Phillies host Florida's other team in a three-game set starting Monday as the Rays return to the site of their 2008 World Series loss.

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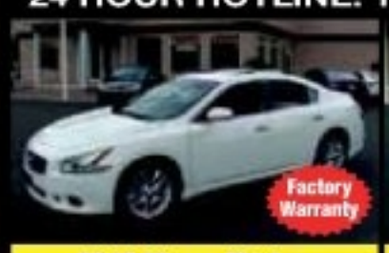

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